

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-01 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 NSC-05

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P 091114Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 2490

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 1139

E.O. 11652 : GDS

TAGS : AFSP, BA

SUBJECT : TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR BAHRAIN

REFERENCE : STATE 238344

1. PRIOR TO DEPARTING FOR AUSTRALIAN-U.S. VISIT IN EARLY AUGUST, DEVELOPMENT MINISTER SHIRAWI EXPRESSED URGENCY OF GOB'S NEED FOR THOSE AID-SPONSORED ADVISORS EARLIER REQUESTED. SINCE THEN, OF COURSE, THERE HAS BEEN WIDE RANGING REORGANIZATION OF CABINET WITH RESULT THAT SOME MINISTERS WHO REQUESTED OR APPROVED SPECIFIC ADVISORS ARE NO LONGER RESPONSIBLE FOR THOSE FUNCTIONS WITH WHICH THE AID ADVISORS WOULD DEAL. THUS I THINK IT IMPERATIVE THAT WE ASK GOB TO REVIEW ITS EARLIER REQUEST TO MAKE CERTAIN IT STILL CONFORMS WITH MOST PRESSING BAHRAINI NEEDS FOR U.S. TECHNICAL ADVICE. IN THIS CONNECTION, I ASSUME WE ARE STILL THINKING ALONG LINES OF AID SUPPORT FOR MAXIMUM OF TEN ADVISORS FOR MAXIMUM OF 20 MAN YEARS BEGINNING APPROXIMATELY JANUARY 1976. AS DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL, ORIGINAL THINKING HAD BEEN TO PROVIDE FIVE ADVISORS UNDER FY 1975 FUNDS AND FIVE MORE THE FOLLOWING YEAR. IN VIEW OF SLIPPAGE, IT WOULD NOW SEEM ADVISABLE TO PROVIDE ALL (THAT IS, UP TO TEN) AT APPROXIMATELY SAME TIME.

2. DEVELOPMENT MINISTER SHIRAWI AND FOREIGN MINISTER ARE RETURNING TO BAHRAIN OVER WEEKEND AND I NEED TO TALK WITH  
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BOTH IN COURSE OF NEXT WEEK TO CLARIFY CURRENT GOB THINKING

ON TYPES OF ADVISORS AND PRECISE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT GOB WILL PROVIDE. BEFORE APPROACHING THEM, HOWEVER, I NEED URGENTLY TO KNOW WHETHER WE CAN NOW MAKE VERBAL COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE AID ADVISORS UNDER GENERAL TERMS OUTLINED IN DRAFT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WHICH GOB HAS HAD FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. IMPLICATION I GET FROM REFTEL IS THAT USG HAS DECIDED TO GO AHEAD WITH THIS PROGRAM.

3. EMBASSY HOPES TO RESPOND TO QUESTION PARA TWO REFTEL RE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT IN NEXT FEW DAYS. IN FORMULATING OUR RECOMMENDATIONS, HOWEVER, IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO KNOW IF THERE IS POSSIBILITY OF AID ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT ARRANGEMENT WHICH AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED WITH AID WHILE IN WASHINGTON. THIS WOULD INVOLVE CURTAILING THE TOUR OF ONE OF THE ADVISORS BY APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTHS TO MAKE AVAILABLE AID FUNDS UNDER THE PROGRAM FOR A TDY ASSIGNMENT FOR THREE TO SIX MONTHS OF AN AID ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER WHO WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR GETTING ADMINISTRATIVE ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM SET UP IN BAHRAIN. OBVIOUSLY THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH HELP WILL BE A MAJOR CONSIDERATION IN OUR ASSESSMENT OF EMBASSY'S ABILITY TO SUPPORT ADVISORS ADMINISTRATIVELY. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON THIS QUESTION SOONEST.  
TWINAM

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